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## MICROSCOPY.

**SPHÆRAPHIDES IN TEA LEAVES.**—The present interest in the question of adulteration of tea leaves gives special importance to Mr. George Gulliver's discovery that the parenchyma of these leaves is thickly studded with sphæraphides, apparently of oxalate of lime, having a mean diameter of about  $\frac{1}{1000}$  inch. They have hitherto escaped notice, being not easy to find on account of the opacity and density of the parts. Soaking, or boiling the leaves in a potash solution, separates the epidermis (which is composed of cells with sinuous margins, and smooth, taper, slightly curved hairs, with the addition of oval stomata on the under side) and exposes distinctly the parenchyma, nerves, and sphæraphides. He has found potash equally useful in exposing the crystals in other plants.

**NEW MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETIES.**—A new society has been organized in Australia, known as the "Microscopical Society of Victoria." Mr. W. H. Archer is the first President.

A Microscopical Department of the Providence Franklin Society has been established, with the following officers for the present year:—*Chairman*, Professor Eli W. Blake, Jr.; *Vice-Chairman*, A. O. Tilden; *Secretary*, Professor John Peirce; *Cabinet Keeper*, N. N. Mason; *Treasurer*, Dr. C. B. Johnson.

The "Indiana Microscopical Society" was incorporated February 16, 1874. It is located at Indianapolis, and holds monthly meetings.

**APPEARANCES OF THE BLOOD IN MELANOSIS.**—M. Nepveau represents that the blood of persons affected with melanotic tumors becomes marked by the presence of an excessive proportion of leucocytes which are also filled with dark granules; the red corpuscles when seen in masses have more or less of a sepia tint; and the serum contains reddish-brown granules, and flexible casts resembling hyaline casts which seem to be derived from the capillaries.

**ACHROMATIC BULL'S EYE CONDENSER.**—This unusual accessory was exhibited by Mr. Ingpen at a late meeting of the Queckett Club.

**EMBEDDING TISSUES.**—At the Queckett Club wax was spoken of as the chosen material for embedding tissues preparatory to cutting thin sections. Dr. Matthews preferred paraffine to beeswax. Dr. George Hoggan, however, considered carrot preferable to wax, and elder pith better than either.

**GLYCERINE MOUNTING.**—According to Dr. George Hoggan, glycerine is used almost universally for mounting in France. A little paraffine is run around the edge of the cover-glass, and a solution of sealing wax painted over it.

### NOTES.

**PROFESSOR JEFFRIES WYMAN**, of Cambridge, died suddenly at Bethlehem, N. H., on September 4th. For many years Professor Wyman had been in delicate health and obliged to spend the winter months in Florida, while the heat of summer was avoided by excursions to the mountains, and it was hoped that with the great care he was taking he would be spared for many years to come; especially did this seem probable from his apparently restored condition on his return from Florida last spring, when he seemed to have renewed vigor for the labors before him, and commenced to put the material he had collected during his Florida trips in order for publication. This was so far advanced that at the time of his decease he was engaged in printing his memoir upon the Shell-mounds of Florida, a work that it is greatly to be hoped was so far completed in manuscript as to ensure its publication, as it will undoubtedly exhibit the thoroughness and cautiousness with which his investigations were made.

Professor Wyman was born in Chelmsford, Mass., August 11, 1814. He graduated at Harvard in the class of 1833, and four years after received his degree of M. D. He then passed two years of study in Europe, and soon after returning to this country accepted the position of Professor of Anatomy at the Hampden Sidney College of Virginia, which place he held until 1847, when he accepted the Hersey Professorship of Anatomy and Physiology at Harvard, which position he held at the time of his decease. He was one of the original Trustees, appointed by Mr. Peabody, of the Peabody Museum of American Ethnology and Archæology, and had from the first held the position of Curator of that Museum which owes so much to his care and labors. He always took an active part in the Boston Society of Natural History, and